

U.S.-Bred Group of Radical Leftists Vexes Mexico

By ALAN RIDING

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MEXICO CITY, April 19—The tiny Mexican section of an obscure American radical-left group is provoking suspicion and irritation in Mexican political circles through a well-financed campaign against the Government.

Although the Government of President Luis Echeverría Alvarez released three detained leaders of the group Wednesday after interrogating them for several days, no explanation has been given why the so-called National Caucus of Labor Committees of the United States has chosen to agitate in Mexico.

Meeting at Columbia

The caucus was founded in New York in the late sixties from remnants of the Students for a Democratic Society. Its leader and mentor is a 52-year-old Marxist, Lyndon Hermyle Larouche Jr., also known as Lyn Marcus, who says he is running for the United States Presidency in 1976.

Early last year, during a visit to Columbia University, a group of young Mexican leftists met members of the caucus and decided to establish a branch

called the Latin American Labor Committees in Mexico City.

Over the last six months, this group, which says it has 80 members, has flooded Mexican newspapers and foreign correspondents with daily bulletins denouncing President Echeverría, often in insulting language, as both agent and victim of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Members of the group, mostly well-dressed middle-class students in their 20's, seem to describe political events as responses to their campaigns. Recently, for example, they said that President Echeverría would violate the Constitution and seek re-election next year. When this was denied, the group asserted that the President's plans had been changed as a result of their denunciation.

As with the movement in the United States, which appears to be financing the Mexican activities, the local group dedicates much time and energy to "exposing" what it calls an international capitalist plot devised by Vice President Rockefeller. "The Rockefeller plans for Mexico are to eliminate 30 million Mexicans through starvation," the Latin American Labor Committees assert.

The sudden appearance of this group on the Mexican political scene has not been welcomed by Mexican leftist organizations because they question its motives in trying to provoke a confrontation with the Government at a time of relative political freedom.

On one recent occasion, for example, a debate at the Foreign Correspondents Club was boycotted by the Mexican Communist party and the new Mexican Workers party because they heard that the Latin American Labor Committees would be participating.

One reason the Mexican left has resisted the group is a nationalist reluctance to accept an American, Mr. Larouche, as leader of a Mexican movement. The Labor Committees insist

that the movement is not American but international, that it is active in Canada, Colombia, Britain, West Germany and France as well.

While puzzled by the unorthodoxy of the Labor Committees, the Mexican Government is responding to the group by quietly promoting the idea that it is right-wing, perhaps sponsored by the C.I.A., and is trying to sabotage the reformist efforts of President Echeverría.

Several times recently the Government has detained its members and held them incommunicado for days during questioning. On March 24, one leader, Carlos De Hoyos y Perez, was arrested a second time while the group's offices were being raided by the police.

CIA 4 Mexico

MARCUS, LYN

Echeverría, Luis